

Application Number 09/733,287
Responsive to Office Action mailed March 10, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously Amended): A connective tissue distraction device comprising:

- a) first transmitting means for transmitting force to a first tissue region,
- b) second transmitting means for transmitting force to a second tissue region,
- c) expansion means for engaging said first transmitting means and said second transmitting means and for exerting force distracting said first transmitting means from said second transmitting means,

wherein each of said first transmitting means, said second transmitting means and said expansion means comprises a biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material;

further wherein said expansion means is configured to be disengaged from said first transmitting means and said second transmitting means.

Claim 2 (Original): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein said first transmitting means comprises a structure for attachment to bone.

Claim 3 (Original): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 2, wherein said structure for attachment to bone comprises at least in part a biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material.

Claim 4 (Original): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 2, wherein said structure for attachment to bone is a plate.

Claim 5 (Previously Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 2, wherein said structure for attachment to bone comprises at least one screw.

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Claim 6 (Original): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 5, wherein said screw is at least in part biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material.

Claim 7 (Original): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein the second transmitting means comprises a structure for attachment to bone.

Claim 8 (Original): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 7, wherein said structure for attachment to bone is at least in part a biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material.

Claim 9 (Original): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 7, wherein the structure for attachment to bone is a plate.

Claim 10 (Previously Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 7, wherein said structure for attachment to bone comprises at least one screw.

Claim 11 (Original): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 10, wherein said screw is at least in part a biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material.

Claim 12 (Previously Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first transmitting means, second transmitting means or the expansion means comprise a malleable or heat malleable material.

Claim 13 (Previously Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein said first transmitting means is configured to transmit force to connective tissue.

Claim 14 (Previously Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein said first transmitting means is configured to transmit force to bone.

Claim 15 (Previously Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein said second transmitting means is configured to transmit force to connective tissue.

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Claim 16 (Previously Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein said second transmitting means is configured to transmit force to bone.

Claim 17 (Original): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein the expansion means comprises a screw actuated expansion mechanism.

Claim 18 (Canceled)

Claim 19 (Previously Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, further comprising an activation means to modulate the expansion means.

Claim 20 (Original): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 19, wherein said activation means is directly or indirectly engaged with expansion means.

Claim 21 (Original): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 20, wherein said activation means is reversibly engaged with the expansion means.

Claim 22 (Previously Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein the connective tissue distraction device is implantable in a subject.

Claim 23 (Previously Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 19, wherein the connective tissue distraction device is implantable in a subject.

Claim 24 (Previously Amended): The connective tissue distraction device of claim 23, wherein at least a portion of the activation means is configured to be external to the subject.

Claim 25 (Original): A method of distracting a first tissue region and a second tissue region, comprising: implanting the connective tissue distraction device of claim 1 into a subject and distracting the first tissue region and the second tissue region.

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Claims 26-60 (Canceled)